



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ BINH DUONG

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022

## VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

## MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3 January 2023 – return to school
- 9 – 13 January – Student Protection Week
- 13 January 2023 – TeT celebrations
- 14 – 29 January 2023 – TeT holiday
- 30 January 2023 – Term 3 starts
- 30 January – 4 February 2023 – Parent-Teacher meetings.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear SIS Parents, Caregivers, Family and Friends

November and December were busy times for the school, students, staff and teachers – with the holding and completion of:

1. Successful MOET and International subject semester 1 exams,
2. A wonderful Christmas Charity Fair, and
3. An entertaining Teacher's Day

As I write, all students and staff are busy enjoying a well-deserved winter holiday – a time to relax with family, enjoy the spirit of giving, and of course to welcome in the new year of 2023. We wish everyone peace and prosperity over this time.

This newsletter is a jam-packed one with updates as usual from primary, secondary and Integrated sections, as well as updates of our STEM programme. We also have articles on 3 OBV courses that took place recently – what a great sight to see our OBV courses being able to resume again after nearly a 3-year break. By all accounts, our students thoroughly enjoy their experiences, learning about working together, overcoming self-doubts and fears, and generally finding out more about life outside of the classroom. We thank all the OBV facilitators for conducting these weeks for us.

Teachers are currently finalising marking and assessments of semester 1 exams. In January the semester 1 reports (both MOET and International) will be finalised with final reports being hopefully available by the time we go on our TeT break in the middle of January. Please note that Parent-Teacher meetings will take place after TeT – class teachers will update all parents regarding exact dates and times.

In ending, I would like to wish all students, parents, staff and their families a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year 2023. I look forward to a great semester 2.

Mark Watling  
Principal

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## PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Dear parents,

It is a pleasure to welcome Ms. Lam back at SIS. Ms. Lam will help as Teacher Assistant with Y5LA and Y2A. We wish you all the best Ms. Lam. Primary had a really busy few weeks. Here are some of the highlights.

The **“Toys for Joy”** – project, initiated by Ms. Luné, kicked off on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. These toys will be distributed to orphaned and vulnerable children in Children’s Homes in the surrounding area. Thank you for everyone’s effort and contribution.

**Teacher’s day** was celebrated on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Globally, this is the day most teachers look forward to every year. A big thank you to every parent and student that made this day extra special for our teachers.

Our Y4 and Y5 students and accompanying staff attended their **OBV Program** at school during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of November. Students had lots of fun while doing activities that took them right out of their comfort zones. Students learned how important it is to communicate clearly and to be collaborative in a group.

This month our **Music Extension Program** also started. Students and their teachers are working hard and we look forward to their first performance.

All students from Y2upwards wrote their formal exams for Semester 1. We wish that all our students really tried their best and that they will be happy with their results.

Our Primary Staff wants to wish all our students and their parents Happy Christmas and all the best for 2023! Enjoy the Christmas break, hopefully spending some quality time with your loved ones.



Mr. Philip van der Walt  
Head of Studies - Primary School



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## HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

November has been a very busy month with lots to celebrate in the high school!

After a long wait, we finally welcomed our new Maths teacher, Ms Jamaica Anders this month. She is the form teacher of IGCSE 1 and teaching Maths to three high school classes. Ms Jamaica has quickly adapted well and is already a valuable member of our staff.

From all the accounts of the teachers and participants, the OBV camp for the members of our three senior classes was a huge success. The awards ceremony and brief slide show following their return was enjoyed by all other classes as well and has generated a lot of excitement and enthusiasm for upcoming camps. The Year 6 and 7 classes will have their camp in April.

We also had two big celebrations during the last two months, namely Teachers' Day and the Christmas Charity Fair. Teachers' Day was a full day marked by a number of performances and some lessons where our students experienced what it was like to be teachers. It was really exciting to see how these lessons were taken seriously and how talented and mature many "teachers" proved to be. From the point of view of the teachers themselves, our sincere thanks to our kind and generous parents for your flowers and gifts. You can be assured that these are always greatly appreciated.

The Christmas Fair was also very successful, and it is clear that we made an excellent profit, proceeds of which will be donated to Caritas. What is even more of a moment to be celebrated, was the attendance of so many of our parents! It has been a very long time since we have been able to welcome parents at an open event such as this and the atmosphere during the evening was warm and exciting.

Students completed their series of exams in both the MOET and SIS curriculum. The results of these and individual reports will only be available just before the TET break in January. These will be followed by Parent Teacher Conferences in February.

We wish all our families a relaxing break, safe travels and a prosperous 2023..

Ms. Lizelle MacLachan  
Head of Studies - Secondary





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## INTEGRATED SCHOOL REPORT

Our Integrated class students wrote their exams in the first week of December and everything went well. Our teachers are busy finalising the marking of these tests and the results will be made available soon.

Our students will have a well deserve break during the Christmas holidays, and I hope they all will have a great time with family and friends.

Congratulations to our 2 students from Year 7A who participated in the English Olympics, namely Do Tuyet Ngoc and Le Tuong Vy. They both performed very well, with Tuyet Ngoc making it as far as the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. We congratulate their efforts which made the school very proud.

Our Year 4 and Year 5 students also participated in their 2-day OBV camps, and all thoroughly enjoyed their experience. Below is a picture of the

It seems that Christmas time is here once again, and it is time again to bring in the New Year. May your Christmas be filled with special moments, warmth, peace and happiness, and the joy of special ones near. Wishing you all the joys of Christmas and a year of happiness in 2023.



Ms. Kim Tri  
Head of Vietnamese

## STAFF UPDATE

The following staff additions took place during November:

1. Mr. Peter Harwood – PE
2. Ms. Jamaica Andres – Secondary Mathematics

The following new staff will join us soon as follows:

1. Mr. Alex Richardson – to teach Year 4 and Year 5 Integrated classes from 3 January 2023.
2. Mr. Matthew Ingle – High School Mathematics specialist – will start on 1 February 2023.
3. Ms. Elzet Smit – upper primary and lower secondary ICT and English.
4. Ms. Nicola Fouche will continue on a part time basis until the end of February assisting as a primary



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## OBV

### IGCSE and AS Level

This adventure started in the wonderful facilities at Outward Bound Vietnam, with a night and day of activities, wall climbing, fun, laughter, frustration, tears and more laughter.

Then came the wilderness! A wilderness adventure, deep deep into the jungle, where survival was key, food prepared instead and the sound of adventure. Two whole days and nights, trekking for what felt like hundreds of hours (in the searing heat with pterodactyl-sized bugs trying to devour the student's limited resources), surviving.

After surviving this arduous program section, the students left the "wild" to return to camp, with further fun activities and much more laughter. Victorious, they returned!

Finally, after the students had thought all was said and done, the adventure continued a week after returning to school with the 1<sup>st</sup> annual OBV comedy awards.

*All in all, a fantastic experience. I as an educator was impressed and proud of the growth and personal development displayed by all the students in such a short time.*

Onwards, outwards towards the next adventure.

Mr. Chris Oldnall



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## Year 5

Our Year 5-students had the opportunity to attend the Outward Bound Vietnam program on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November. All the activities took place at SIS BDNC.

For an ice-breaker activity, students had to introduce themselves. The importance to know your group members was emphasized by the professional and experienced staff. Through different activities, our students learned different life-skills. During these challenges, they learned how important it is to work together in a team and also to respect each other. Each member of every team was encouraged to give his / her best and to complete the task, for the team.

After the students enjoyed a lovely meal, the MPH was prepared for bedtime. For some students this was the first time sleeping away from their parents. After a good night's rest, they got up at 6:00 AM to get ready for the activities. One of the highlights was to learn how to use a compass for navigation. They also learned to make different knots, which can be very helpful in case of an emergency.

This was an amazing experience, where students learned a lot about themselves while being out of their "comfort zones".

Ms. Rina van der Walt



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## Year 4

After months of anticipation our Year 4 pupils got their first taste of Outward Bound Vietnam during their two days and one night, in-school experience.

From the first moment till the last, we were challenged in ways that many of us had never been before. We enjoyed games and activities that tested our problem-solving skills, critical thinking teamwork and knowledge of the world around us. We got to know old friends better and made new friendships, all while discovering our inner selves, developing our own character and learning the value of respect.

There were many highlights including: getting to know our O.B.V guides, learning how to navigate using a self-made compass, all the teambuilding activities we completed (our favourite being the 'team bridge build and cross'- see picture below) and of course camping out in school overnight!

Finally, a big thank you to all the O.B.V staff, teachers and of the course all the pupils who joined for making this an unforgettable experience.



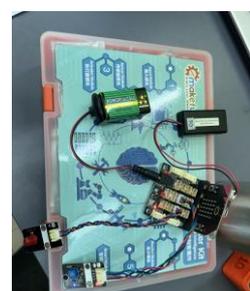
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## STEM UPDATE

November STEM was brimming with new inventions and incredible projects from our students. Our primary pupils work hard to improve their problem-solving abilities, creative thinking, and teamwork. Our Year 4 International class has completed their STEM project titled 'Protecting Our Earth.' They employ domestic waste materials to create a variety of helpful projects that they can use in class and in their daily lives. While our Secondary students work on their Smart Home projects, such as the Robot Broom, Doorbell, Smart Door, and Sensor Operated House Model.

Additionally, before the holiday break, our SIS students and parents had a great time at our STEM booth at the Christmas Charity Fair, which featured a number of one-minute challenges. In addition, our IGCSE students successfully constructed their sensor-controlled "Smart Home" utilizing Microbits. The year 2022 is full of incredible projects and challenges, and the following year will be even more interesting due to the upcoming competitions and challenges.



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## CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR – 2 DECEMBER 2022

This year we were able to once again hold a full scale Christmas Charity Fair, where parents were allowed to join their children in the festivities. The fair was preceded by our Christmas Concert with performances from our KIK classes as well as a play by our IGCSE 1 students. After the concert, the children and parents and staff enjoyed the variety of the 29 and games stalls, expertly run by students and teachers alike. The evening was a resounding success with over 70 million vnd being raised for the Caritas Charity. Thank you to all our parents and students, and of course our dedicated staff, for making this possible.





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## STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARDS – NOVEMBER 2022

Student of the Month Award winners for November 2022 are:

Class	October
Y1	Nguyen Hoang Khoi
Y2	Luong Ly Nguyen Lan
Y3	Phan Tien Dinh
Y4	Do Tuong Phuc / Nguyen Dinh Anh
Y5	Choi Jin
Y6	Le Ho Ngoc Nhi
Y7	Ngo Bao Han
Y8	No Award
IG1	Tran Tieu Phuong
IG2	Vuong My Thy
AS	No award